



# House Human Services Committee

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Overview of the CPS Investigation Process

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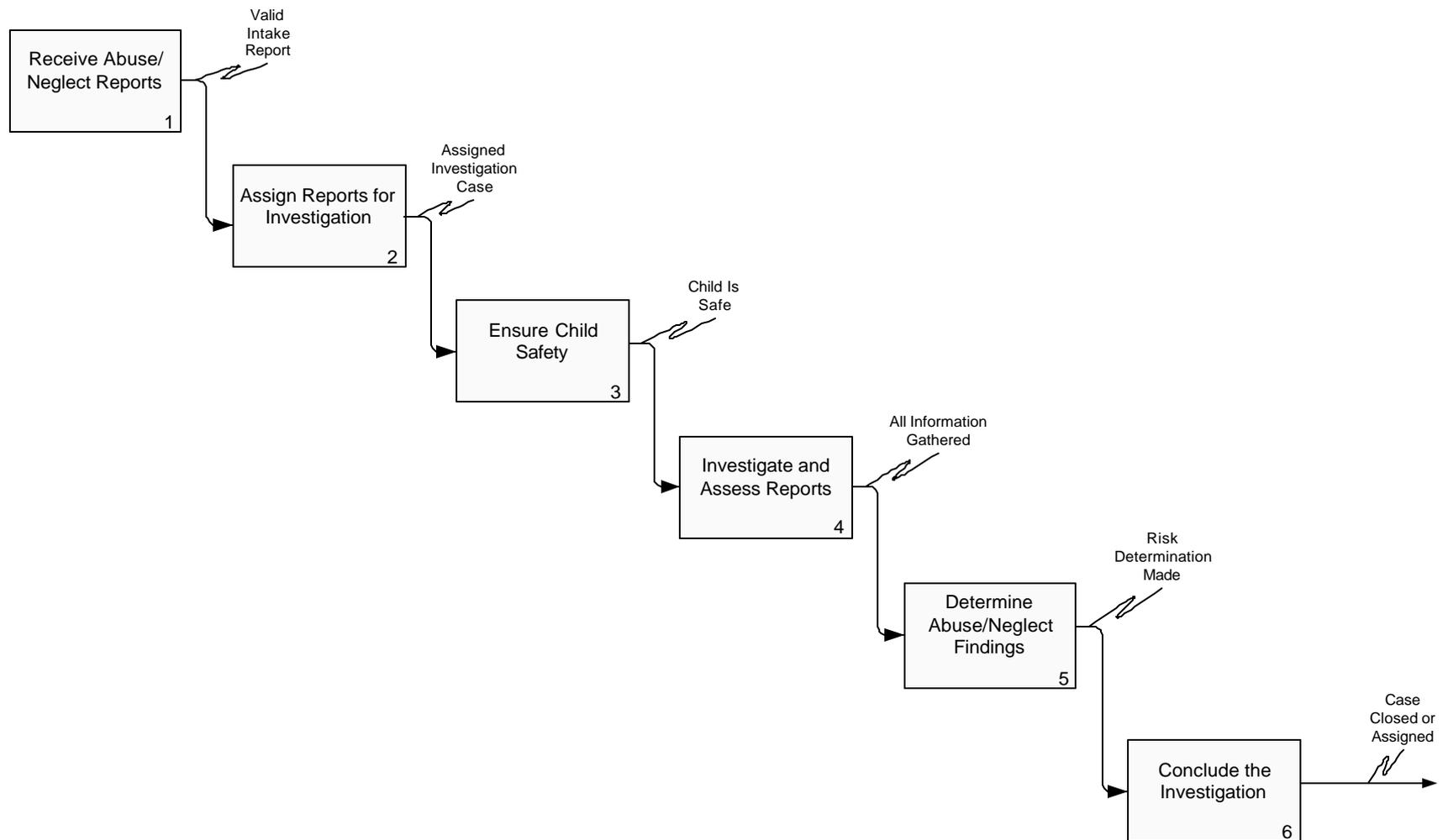
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# CPS Investigation Process

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- To determine whether an alleged incident of child abuse or neglect has occurred and whether there is risk of future abuse or neglect.
- To ensure the safety of children at risk of harm either through immediate removal from dangerous situations or through family-based services to enable the family to protect the child.

# CPS Investigation Steps



# 1. Receive Abuse/Neglect Reports

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## Process

- Statewide Intake (SWI) receives reports 24/7
- Determines if reports meet statutory definitions of abuse/neglect
- Assigns priority
  - Priority 1 – within 24 Hours
  - Priority 2 – within 10 Days

## Statistics

# Abuse/Neglect Reports	FY'02	FY'03	FY'04
Received	183,057	185,732	206,978
Total Statewide Intake Staff			318

# 2. Assign Reports for Investigation

## Process

- SWI forwards all reports to local law enforcement
- SWI electronically sends abuse/neglect reports to local CPS office
- Priority 1 reports assigned to staff available around the clock
- Some regions perform additional screening to identify cases needing full investigation
- Joint investigations with law enforcement on priority 1 physical and sexual abuse

## Statistics

# Reports Assigned	FY'02	FY'03	FY'04
Priority 1 Physical & Sexual Abuse Reports Assigned	26,823	26,941	31,120
All Reports Assigned	157,544	162,044	180,843
Total Number of Investigation Caseworkers			1,222

# 3. Ensure Child Safety

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## Process

- Child safety is the highest priority
- Continuous assessment of child safety
  - During each contact with child and family
  - Whenever new information is received
- If child is not safe, a safety plan is immediately put in place and monitored, including actions needed to protect the child, such as:
  - Supervise contact between child and alleged perpetrator
  - Bar alleged perpetrator from home
  - Place child with relatives
  - Place child in foster care

# 4. Investigate and Assess Reports

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## Process

- Initial contact within 24 hours or 10 days
- Interview all alleged victims to ensure they are safe
- Gather information from children, parents, relatives, and others who know the family
- Abuse/neglect background checks on parents and alleged perpetrators
- Criminal background checks on all alleged perpetrators

## Statistics

Investigations by Priority	FY'02	FY'03	FY'04
Priority 1 Reports	35,160	35,538	37,845
Priority 2 Reports	90,098	95,592	100,742
Total	125,258	131,130	138,587

# 5. Determine Abuse/Neglect Findings

## Process

- Based on all interviews and information gathered during the investigation, the worker:
  - Determines whether the child was abused or neglected
  - Assesses the likelihood of future abuse or neglect

## Statistics

Did Abuse/Neglect Occur?	FY'02	FY'03	FY'04
Reason To Believe	30,899	32,792	32,664
Ruled Out	68,689	70,517	75,748
Unable To Determine	18,815	21,326	23,576
Unable To Complete	6,855	6,495	6,599

Risk Assessment	FY'02	FY'03	FY'04
Risk Indicated	18,321	19,094	18,768
Risk Not Indicated	106,937	112,036	119,819
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>125,258</b>	<b>131,130</b>	<b>138,587</b>

# 6. Conclude the Investigation

## Process

- With supervisor approval, one of the following actions takes place:
  - **Case Closed** – No services needed or family referred to community-based services
  - **Case Opened** - Family-Based Safety Services are provided for children at risk but who are safe in their homes
  - **Case Opened** - Child Placement Services are provided for children who are removed when they are not safe in their homes.

## Statistics

Outcome of Investigation	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Closed - No Further Services	108,423	113,655	121,418
Opened for Family Preservation	11,653	11,996	11,239
Opened for Substitute Care	5,182	5,479	5,930
Total	125,258	131,130	138,587